



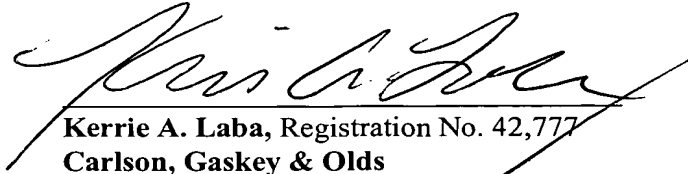
Finally, even if these references were to be combined they do not teach the invention as set forth by Applicant in Claim 23. The *Eichinger* patent discloses a motor output shaft 11 that directly drives a sun gear 14 which in turn drives a wheel hub 6 where the shaft 11, sun gear 14, and hub 6 all rotate about a common axis.

11

Even assuming that *Quartullo* teaches the mounting of motors at a vertically higher position than the floor, to modify *Austin* in such a manner would destroy the benefits of *Austin*. The sole purpose of *Austin* was to provide an elevated passenger compartment with baggage storage underneath. *Austin* teaches placing powertrain of the bus at the rear of the vehicle behind the passenger seats to increase the baggage area below the seats. To modify *Austin* by removing the rear powertrain and mounting electric drive systems at each wheel would directly interfere with and decrease the baggage area. Thus, it is improper to modify *Austin* as taught by *Quartullo*.

Claims 23-49 are in condition for allowance. An early indication of such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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APPENDIX A**Version with markings to show changes made**

Page 7, paragraph beginning at line 20:

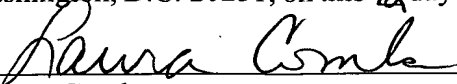
Another method of mounting the motors for the present invention is disclosed in [co-pending patent application number _____] United States Patent No. 5,924,504 entitled "Suspension Drive Unit Assembly for An Electronically Driven Vehicle." Another mounting of the motor relative to the axle of the wheel hub is disclosed in [co-pending patent application number _____] United States Patent No. 5,878,830 entitled "Space Saving Connection for Electric Drive Motor to Wheel Hub."

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail - Post Office to Addressee", in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 12 day of February, 2001.



Laura Combs

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